

What is claimed is:

1 1. A digital television receiver, comprising:

2 a receiving means having selectable first and second inputs, said first
3 input receiving a broadcast digital television signal and said second input receiving
4 a digital television signal from a reproduction apparatus, and generating a video
5 signal for display; and,

6 means coupled to said receiving means for generating a display
7 message responsive to display message data derived from said selected input and
8 for combining said display message with said video signal.

1 2. The digital television receiver of claim 1, wherein said digital television
2 signal from said reproduction apparatus includes data representative of a text
3 display message.

1 3. The digital television receiver of claim 1, further comprising a memory
2 storing a plurality of graphical messages selectably coupled for combining with said
3 video signal in accordance with a control command from said receiver.

1 4. The digital television receiver of claim 3, wherein, said plurality of graphical
2 messages includes messages specific to said reproduction apparatus.

1 5. The digital television receiver of claim 4, wherein, said digital television
2 signal from said reproduction apparatus includes data for selecting a graphical
3 message specific to said reproduction apparatus.

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1 6. A receiving device coupled to a reproduction apparatus for receiving and
2 decoding digital signals, comprising:

3 means for receiving a digital video signal and first and second control
4 signals from said reproduction apparatus;

5 a decoder coupled to said receiving means for decoding said digital
6 video signal and generating a video display signal therefrom;

7 an on screen display message generator coupled to said decoder for
8 generating a display message and said combining an display message with said
9 video display signal;

10 a memory containing message data for on screen display, said
11 message data representing display messages for said receiving device and for said
12 reproduction apparatus; and,

13 a controller receiving said first and second control signals and coupled
14 to said generating means and said memory for selecting message data, and
15 responsive to said first control signal selecting a specific message stored for said
16 reproduction apparatus, and absent said specific message data in said memory,
17 said controller coupling said second control signal to said generating means for
18 generating a message therefrom.

1 7. The receiving device of claim 6, wherein said memory contains a plurality of
2 display message data corresponding to a plurality of video signal sources.

1 8. The receiving device of claim 6, wherein said first control signal corresponds
2 to a specific display message request.

1 9. The receiving device of claim 6, wherein said second control signal
2 represents specific display message data.

1 10. The receiving device of claim 6, wherein said memory contains display
2 message data specific to a digital recording and replay apparatus.

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